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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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# Press Release

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL MCGRAW AWARDS FUNDING TO THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COALITION  
ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE INC. FROM THE PHARMA, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced the distribution of \$50,000 to the Jefferson County Coalition on Substance Abuse for the operation of its FOCUS (Free Our Citizens of Unhealthy Substances) program. This money comes from the latest installment in the \$10,000,000 settlement with Purdue Pharma, Inc. over the addictive qualities of the drug Oxycontin.

According to Christa Shifflett, Executive Director, the FOCUS program provides substance abuse and violence prevention services in the Eastern Panhandle. The FOCUS programs offers a wide range of services that include teaching drug prevention courses in schools and sponsoring drug prevention clubs, drug free events and youth leadership forums. FOCUS programs serve approximately 600 youths monthly. The object of the FOCUS program is to divert children from situations which may lead to substance abuse. This includes educational programs as well as youth activities that offer children an alternative to inactivity which can often lead them into pursuits that result in exposure to illegal substances.

“An active child with a sense of purpose is far less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol. Programs like FOCUS attack the root of drug addiction by offering children a support network of education and structured activities which provide an alternative to the streets. It is an honor for my office to see the fruits of our labor go back to the citizens we serve by putting this funding into drug education and, therefore, the community. As we gather here today in a combined effort of service to our polity and community, we recognize that our world is larger than our village, city, state or country. We all have a contribution to make to civilization, and I know that we are all committed to that in our efforts.” McGraw stated.

Purdue Pharma agreed to pay West Virginia \$10 million over four years and the awards came from the second installment of \$2.5 million.

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